

2nd year MSc in NLP: Welcome!

Karën Fort

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Introduction

Reminders

2 specializations: robustness and reasoning

Seminars and Forum

Master thesis / Internship

Not to do

Working together

Karën Fort (she/her)



You?



Administration

- ▶ Maxime Amblard, head of the Master TAL:
maxime.amblard@univ-lorraine.fr
 - ▶ in charge of the Master
 - ▶ in charge of the Master 1
- ▶ Karën Fort, Erasmus Mundus LCT local coordinator,
karen.fort@univ-lorraine.fr, LORIA B-116
 - ▶ in charge of the Master 2
- ▶ Karine Weisse, administrative issues: karine.weisse@univ-lorraine.fr
- ▶ Marie-Luce Boulet, marie-luce.boulet@univ-lorraine.fr

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Practical points

Registration! ENT, schedule, mailing list, Crous, ...

You need your **laptop!**

If you don't have one, the IDMC can lend you one
(we have a limited number of computers, so go and ask for one now!)

Contact: marie-luce.boulet@univ-lorraine.fr

Join the Discord Server!

(contact: MaximeAmblard#3475)

Contacts and lists

- ▶ <https://idmc.univ-lorraine.fr/>
- ▶ Mailing list:
idmc-m2-tal-2526@etu.univ-lorraine.fr
- ▶ Schedule (ADE): <https://monade.univ-lorraine.fr/> (many updates!)
- ▶ Course platform (depending on teachers): <https://arche.univ-lorraine.fr>
- ▶ Administrative registration: <https://inscriptions.univ-lorraine.fr>
- ▶ Pedagogical registration (IP) <https://ipweb.univ-lorraine.fr>
- ▶ grades etc. <https://ent.univ-lorraine.fr>

Apprenticeship (alternance)

possible until the end of Sept.

- ▶ **work**-study contract with companies
- ▶ includes your internship
- ▶ M1 and M2 have a asynchronous calendar of alternance
- ▶ During the alternance weeks, you have few courses: They're **not** (at all) holidays!
- ▶ Alternance students do not have some projects

Overall schedule for students with apprenticeship

M2 – University Calendar – 2025/2026

Students with an apprenticeship

University (courses)				Apprenticeship				Bank Holiday			
September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
M 1	START OF S9	W 1	S 1	Bank Holiday	M 1	T 1	Bank Holiday	S 1	S 1	W 1	S 1
T 2		S 2	T 2		F 2	M 2		M 2	START OF S10	T 2	S 2
W 3		F 3	M 3		W 3		T 3	T 3		F 3	M 3
T 4		S 4	T 4		S 4	W 4		W 4		S 4	T 4
F 5		S 5	W 5		F 5	M 5		T 5		F 5	W 5
S 6		M 6	T 6		S 6	T 6		F 6		M 6	T 6
S 7		T 7	F 7		S 7	W 7		S 7		T 7	F 7
M 8		W 8	S 8		M 8	T 8		S 8		W 8	S 8
T 9		T 9	S 9		T 9	F 9		M 9		T 9	S 9
W 10		F 10	M 10		W 10	S 10		T 10		F 10	M 10
T 11		S 11	T 11		S 11	W 11		W 11		T 11	S 11
F 12		S 12	W 12		F 12	M 12		T 12		F 12	W 12
S 13		M 13	T 13		S 13	T 13		F 13		M 13	T 13
S 14		T 14	F 14		S 14	W 14		S 14		T 14	S 14
M 15		W 15	S 15		M 15	T 15		S 15		W 15	S 15
T 16		T 16	S 16		T 16	F 16		M 16		T 16	S 16
W 17		F 17	M 17		W 17	S 17		T 17		F 17	M 17
T 18		S 18	T 18		S 18	W 18		T 18		S 18	T 18
F 19		S 19	W 19		F 19	M 19		T 19		F 19	W 19
S 20		M 20	T 20		S 20	T 20		F 20		M 20	T 20
S 21		T 21	F 21		S 21	W 21		S 21		T 21	F 21
M 22		W 22	S 22		M 22	T 22		S 22		W 22	S 22
T 23		T 23	S 23		T 23	F 23		M 23		T 23	S 23
W 24		F 24	M 24		W 24	S 24		T 24		F 24	M 24
T 25		S 25	T 25		S 25	W 25		T 25		S 25	T 25
F 26		S 26	W 26		F 26	M 26		T 26		F 26	W 26
S 27		M 27	T 27		S 27	T 27		F 27		M 27	T 27
S 28		T 28	F 28		S 28	W 28		T 28		S 28	T 28
M 29		W 29	S 29		M 29	T 29		S 29		W 29	S 29
T 30		S 30	T 30		S 30	F 30		M 30		T 30	S 30
		F 31			W 31	S 31		T 31		F 31	M 31

Overall schedule for students without apprenticeship

M2 – University Calendar – 2025/2026

Students ~~without~~ an apprenticeship

University (courses)				Project				Mandatory Internship				Bank Holiday											
September		October		November		December		January		February		March		April		May		June		July		August	
M 1	START OF S9	W 1		S 1	Bank Holiday	M 1		T 1	Bank Holiday	S 1		S 1		W 1		F 1	Bank Holiday	M 1		W 1		S 1	
T 2		T 2		S 2		T 2		F 2		M 2		M 2	START OF S10	T 2		S 2		T 2		T 2		S 2	
W 3		F 3		M 3		W 3		S 3		T 3		T 3		F 3		S 3		W 3		F 3		M 3	
T 4		S 4		T 4		T 4		S 4		W 4		W 4		S 4		M 4		T 4		S 4		T 4	
F 5		S 5		W 5		F 5		M 5		T 5		T 5		S 5		T 5		F 5		S 5		W 5	
S 6		M 6		T 6		S 6		T 6		F 6		F 6		M 6	Bank Holiday	W 6		S 6		M 6		T 6	
S 7		T 7		F 7		S 7		W 7		S 7		S 7		T 7		T 7		S 7		T 7		F 7	
M 8		W 8		S 8		M 8		T 8		S 8		S 8		W 8		F 8	Bank Holiday	M 8		W 8		S 8	
T 9		T 9		S 9		T 9		F 9		M 9		M 9	S9 July	T 9		S 9		T 9		T 9		S 9	
W 10		F 10		M 10		W 10		S 10		T 10		T 10		F 10		S 10		W 10		F 10		M 10	
T 11		S 11		T 11	Bank Holiday	T 11		S 11		W 11		W 11		S 11		M 11		T 11		S 11		T 11	
F 12		S 12		W 12		F 12		M 12		T 12		T 12		S 12		T 12		F 12		S 12		W 12	
S 13		M 13		T 13		S 13		T 13		F 13		F 13		M 13		W 13		S 13		M 13		T 13	
S 14		T 14		F 14		S 14		W 14		S 14		S 14		T 14		T 14	Bank Holiday	S 14		T 14	Bank Holiday	F 14	
M 15		W 15		S 15		M 15		T 15		S 15		S 15		W 15		F 15		M 15		W 15		S 15	Bank Holiday
T 16		T 16		S 16		T 16		F 16		M 16		M 16		T 16		S 16		T 16		T 16		S 16	
W 17		F 17		M 17		W 17		S 17		T 17		T 17		F 17		S 17		W 17		F 17		M 17	
T 18		S 18		T 18		T 18		S 18		W 18		W 18		S 18		M 18		T 18		S 18		T 18	
F 19		S 19		W 19		F 19		M 19		T 19		T 19		S 19		T 19		F 19		S 19		W 19	
S 20		M 20		T 20		S 20		T 20		F 20		F 20		M 20		W 20		S 20		M 20		T 20	
S 21		T 21		F 21		S 21		W 21		S 21		S 21		T 21		T 21		S 21		T 21		F 21	
M 22		W 22		S 22		M 22		T 22		S 22		S 22		W 22		F 22		M 22		W 22		S 22	
T 23		T 23		S 23		T 23		F 23		M 23		M 23	S9 Rest exams	T 23		S 23		T 23		T 23		S 23	
W 24		F 24		M 24		W 24		S 24		T 24		T 24	S9 Rest exams	F 24		S 24		W 24		F 24		M 24	
T 25		S 25		T 25		T 25	Bank Holiday	S 25		W 25		W 25	S9 Rest exams	T 25		M 25	Bank Holiday	T 25		T 25		S 25	
F 26		S 26		W 26		F 26		M 26		T 26		T 26	S9 Rest exams	S 26		T 26		F 26		S 26		W 26	Defences
S 27		M 27		T 27		S 27		T 27		F 27		F 27	S9 Rest exams	M 27		W 27		S 27		M 27		T 27	Defences
S 28		T 28		F 28		S 28		W 28		S 28		S 28		T 28		T 28		S 28		T 28		F 28	Defences
M 29		W 29		S 29		M 29		T 29		S 29		S 29		W 29		F 29		M 29		W 29		S 29	
T 30		T 30		S 30		T 30		F 30		M 30		M 30		T 30		S 30		T 30		T 30		S 30	
		F 31		W 31		S 31		T 31		S 31		T 31		S 31		W 31		F 31		M 31			

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80% in common

- ▶ 901 - Basics in NLP : 124h
- ▶ 902 - Openings : 116h
- ▶ 903:
 - ▶ Robustness: 88h
 - ▶ Reasoning: 88h
- ▶ 904 - 904 - Project and Language Course : 44 + 24

901: basics in NLP

Course name	Person in charge
Neural networks	P. Magron
Written data processing	K. Smaïli
Speech processing	Y. Laprie, V. Martin
Generative AI	C. Gardent
Lexical resources	B. Guillaume
LLM	C. Cerisara

UE 902: Openings

Course name	Person in charge
Syntactic models	S. Pogodalla
Discourse	M. Amblard
Speech recognition and synthesis	I. Illina and P. Magron
Signal processing	F. Guayyem and V. Martin
Ontology	M. d'Aquin
Terminology	A. Polguère
Dialog engineering	M. Amblard

UE 903: Robustness

Course name	Person in charge
Prompt engineering	C. Gardent
Robust speech processing	R. Serizel
Less-resourced languages	D. Bernhard and C. Engelhart
Lexicology	Y. Keromnes
Ethics	K. Fort

UE 903: Reasoning

Course name	Person in charge
Semantics	P. de Groote
Symbolic Knowledge discovery	M. Couceiro
AI reasoning	G. Michel and Y. Si
Pragmatics	M. Dargnat
Opinion analysis and multilingualism	M. Mieskes

UE 904: Project, Orientation, Foreign Languages

Course name	Person in charge
Software projects	K. Fort
Orientation	K. Fort & H. de Mazancourt
NLP outside NLP	TBC
Foreign Language course (EN/FR)	TBC

About projects (apprentices not concerned)

We will propose projects, but you can **propose your own** (groups of 4)
Think about it rapidly!

Evaluation

- ▶ average computed with marks obtained in all the courses with a coefficient proportional to the ECTS credits
- ▶ the semester is passed if the average is at least 10/20 and if no mark at the UE level is less than 8
- ▶ **ONLY** the students who failed the semester after the first session, go to the second session.
- ▶ Results of the second session **replace** the corresponding marks of the first session.

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Forum/Seminars

Forum of cognitive sciences and NLP: Nov. 26th

Seminars:

- ▶ Sept. 24th
- ▶ Nov. 5th
- ▶ Jan. 14th
- ▶ *March 18th*
- ▶ *May 27th*

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UE 1001 - Internship - What? When?

Internship:

- ▶ minimum 5 months
- ▶ from the end of Feb
- ▶ in a research lab or in the private sector (to be validated by us)
- ▶ supervisor onsite and godfather/godmother/tuteurice from the pedagogical team

Manuscript (thesis):

- ▶ 50 pages max (bibliography and appendices excluded)
- ▶ deadline: August 17th

Defense:

- ▶ last week of August
- ▶ 20 min. presentation + 15 min questions
- ▶ your **supervisor should attend** (remote is possible, organized by you)

Writing a thesis: some basics

- ▶ strictly respect the deadline
- ▶ strictly respect the maximum nb of pages
- ▶ (mandatory) use the provided template (see <https://idmc.univ-lorraine.fr/student-hub-nlp/>)
- ▶ do not put ArXiv references when there is a real publication
- ▶ source all your illustrations
- ▶ put some examples
- ▶ it is a thesis, not a mere report $\Rightarrow$ a state of the art and a thorough evaluation are mandatory
- ▶ make sure your local supervisor writes their evaluation (see Hub)

Presenting your work: some basics

- ▶ start preparing in advance and **rehearse** you presentation (with your supervisor)
- ▶ 20 min presentation = more or less 20 slides (no more than 30, even if you're quick)
- ▶ **do not rush** during your presentation $\Rightarrow$ make choices (don't present everything)
- ▶ watch the jury, not your slides
- ▶ no full sentences on slides
- ▶ **source** all your illustrations

- ▶ put some **examples**
- ▶ **justify** your work (why is it important?)

Beware! Money

- ▶ the basic allowance for internships in France is **around €650** (research labs will generally pay you this minimum)
- ▶ big cities are much more expensive than Nancy (esp. Paris)

Beware! Planing

- ▶ start searching soon
- ▶ register to the LN and CORPORA mailing lists (we will **NOT** forward you their ads)
- ▶ send a lot of resumes/CV (less than 10 is not a lot)

Who does what?

1. you find an internship (not us)
 2. once you're accepted as an intern, you send me the subject, that I need to validate: if it's not NLP, it will not be accepted
 3. you get in contact with Karine Weisse for the paperwork
- ▶ if it's abroad, it's more complex, we need more time
 - ▶ there are almost 50 of you, take that into account

Beware! ZRR

LORIA (and most computer science labs in France) is a ZRR building, which means that:

- ▶ you'll need to go through a security screening to be allowed to enter
- ▶ if you're from a country out of EU:
 - ▶ it takes (even more) time
 - ▶ you will not necessarily be allowed in

→ all the paperwork should be done well **in advance**

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Plagiarism is BAD¹

¹and forbidden

What about using an LLM?

It is like going to the gym with a forklift!

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Some feedback from (some) previous years students 1/2

*As a former student, I have the feeling that the overall friendly and welcoming atmosphere of the master's was somehow **spoiled by some careless behaviours**. During the second year especially, I was bothered by the unapologetic habit of some students to arrive (very) late in class, sometimes interrupting the professor and making everyone lose time for every batch of late comers.*

*Overall, reactions to the mention of late arrivals and freely coming and going into classes were that "we should be treated as **adults**" ... Well, my feeling was that sometimes, we (as a class) weren't really behaving as such.*

*I was also **ashamed** to hear that Cognitive Science students (who we shared some classes with) reported bad experience with **NLP people's discourtesies** to their master's supervisors.*

Some feedback from (some) previous years students 2/2

*There were often **students who came in late, did not even apologize or did not seem ashamed or sorry at all.** I think we all can be late sometimes (I myself was late at some point), but something recurrent and without any type of valid excuse or remorse I find it quite disrespectful, not only for the professor, but with all the other classmates, specially if it's not only a few minutes late, but way more than a couple of minutes.*

*You could sense linguistic background students were often lost, but ashamed to ask questions because some of them might seem obvious for people with more experience in coding/tech. Some teachers did not have patience or did not seem aware that there's people who have a lot less experience than others, and when students addressed this they were shamed and not taken seriously. In these cases, **helping your classmates who have less experience without making them feel inferior is a huge help**, we were lucky enough to have great classmates who were willing to explain and help when others were lost. Future generations, please try to help if you can!*

Collective contract

Are there things you would like to change (from last year) in terms of:

- ▶ behavior of your classmates?
- ▶ organization?

What I'm asking you to do

- ▶ be respectful (if you want to be respected):
 - ▶ be on time
 - ▶ be polite
 - ▶ take others into consideration
- ▶ attend the group you are assigned to (if you cannot, switch with somebody and tell the teacher)
- ▶ help each other

Cultural difficulties

Every year we encounter cultural difficulties. . .

- ▶ It is important to say **when** you don't understand **what** you don't understand, it doesn't affect the perception you give
- ▶ It is important to address **all** people working in the building (teachers, secretaries, IT staff, cleaning staff, etc.) **politely**.

We are all working to make your studies easier and to improve your daily life.

- ▶ Finally:
 - ▶ Deadlines **must** be respected
 - ▶ You should **anticipate** difficulties as much as possible
 - ▶ **Do not remain isolated** - do not leave others in isolation
 - ▶ If you see something, **react**

Inclusion

- ▶ International relations Office (DRIE) can be very helpful (including with visa process, administrative work etc.)
- ▶ <https://welcome.univ-lorraine.fr/en/>
- ▶ Equality – Diversity - Inclusion
Regardless of your origin, your culture, your sexual orientation, your gender identity, your religion, your appearance, your differences, you all belong to the same community.

Enjoy your year!

- ▶ Sept: Le livre sur la place
- ▶ Oct: Nancy Jazz Pulsation (NJP)
- ▶ Opera (some **very cheap** seats), La Manufacture, salle Poirel, l'Autre canal, CCAM
- ▶ Médiathèque (**free**, just next door)
- ▶ Movie theaters Caméo (VO)
- ▶ museum aquarium (great exhibits, free 1st Sunday of the month)
- ▶ museum of fine arts
- ▶ Metz: centre Pompidou-Metz